

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 26-27, 2006

Reference No.: 2.2a.(2)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Ref: **SUMMARY – NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT, ROUTE 180 IN FRESNO COUNTY – ROUTE ADOPTION NEAR FRESNO**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the April 2006 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- 06-Fre-180, PM 9.0 /54.2. Route adoption near Fresno in Fresno County.

PROGRAMMING:

This is a study that will evaluate a range of alternative route alignments for State Route 180, between Interstate 5 and the vicinity of Valentine Avenue, west of State Route 99 in Fresno County. Upon completion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a route adoption will be requested from the California Transportation Commission. The adopted route will eventually be developed into a transportation facility as demand for improvements become known, and as funding becomes available. The environmental document is anticipated to be completed in Fiscal Year 2007-08.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

- Existing alignment between State Route 33 and the eastern project limit.
- New northern alignments between State Route 33 and the eastern project limit.
- Three new alignments between Interstate 5 and State Route 33.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological resources
- Community impacts
- Cultural resources

An EIR will be prepared because the study encompasses an extensive area and the route adoption will impact general plans of regional and local governments. As projects are proposed within the adopted route, substantial environmental impacts may occur.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

Following are measures to minimize harm that would likely be considered for a potential future construction project in this area. Additional measures to minimize harm will be identified in this EIR. More specific measures to minimize harm would be identified in the environmental document for the potential future construction project.

- Provide compensation and relocation assistance consistent with State and Federal laws
- Avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to wetlands and other waters of the United States in accordance with State and Federal laws
- Avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife refuges
- Incorporate measures to reduce construction-period impacts
- Conduct studies to identify locations of sensitive biological and cultural resources
- Monitor for sensitive resources during construction
- Avoid known hazardous waste sites to the extent feasible
- Maintain existing drainage patterns and capacity to the extent feasible
- Apply Best Management Practices during construction
- Design to meet requirements for areas crossing major floodplains
- Noise attenuation where conditions warrant and where reasonable and feasible

Attachment

Figure 1: Project Location Map

